

Message Text

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63

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 COA-02 DLOS-07 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00

DOT-00 INT-08 CG-00 AID-20 IGA-02 OMB-01 IO-14

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /161 W

----- 067300

R 072118Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0965

INFO AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 3022

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIS, EC, PE

SUBJECT: GOE FISHERIES REGULATIONS

REF: QUITO 2942 (NOTAL)

1. MAY 6 DCM ACCOMPANIED BY EMBOFF REPEATED PRESENTATION PREVIOUSLY MADE TO ACTING FONMIN MAY 2 (REFTEL) TO UNDER-SECRETARY FOR FISHERIES RIVADENEIRA. HE LISTENED WITHOUT COMMENT, THEN MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS, DRAWING FROM WHAT APPEARED TO BE A COPY OF THE DRAFT REGULATIONS.

2. THE PROHIBITION WILL BE ON FOREIGN-FLAG PURSE SEINERS OF OVER ONE THOUSAND GROSS REGISTERED TONS, AND THIS HE CLAIMED WOULD WORK OUT IN PRACTICE TO BE A LIMIT OF ABOUT 500 NET REGISTERED TONS. BASED ON THE MINISTRY'S LICENSING EXPERIENCE, THIS WOULD EXCLUDE ABOUT TEN PERCENT OF THE US FLEET WHICH HAS TRADITIONALLY FISHED OFF THE ECUADOREAN COAST, BUT WOULD ALSO EXCLUDE ALL THE FRENCH, CANADIAN AND SPANISH BOATS WHICH HAVE BEEN BUYING LICENSES.

3. THE REASON FOR THIS LIMITATION, HE SAID, WAS
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PRESSURE FROM ECUADOR'S COASTAL FISHERMAN WHO CLAIM
THAT LARGE PURSE SEINERS HABITUALLY SWEEP UP ENTIRE

SCHOOLS OF TUNA LEAVING LITTLE OR NOTHING FOR THE SMALL LOCAL "CANEROS" (BAIT-BOATS). THIS WAS SAID TO BE A SIGNIFICANT PROBLEM FOR THE GOE, ONE WHICH REQUIRED SOME POSITIVE ACTION TO GET MANTA FISHERMEN OFF ITS BACK. HOWEVER, MAIN TARGET WAS NOT US BOATS BUT PERUVIAN ONES. ALTHOUGH LATTER YET HAVE NO LARGE PURSE SEINERS IN THEIR NATIONAL FLEET, THEY ARE EXPECTING DELIVERY OF THREE BIG BOATS LATE THIS YEAR WHICH GOE "KNEW" WERE DESTINED FOR FISHING OFF ECUADOREAN COAST. PRESENCE OF THESE BOATS, BESIDES NEGATIVE IMPACT ON LOCAL FLEET, WOULD CAUSE SEVERE FOREIGN RELATIONS PROBLEM. WHEN DCM MADE POINT AGAIN THAT TIMING OF SUCH MEASURE COULD NOT BE WORSE WITH RESPECT TO EFFECT ON POSSIBLE TALKS WITH U.S. INDUSTRY, RIVADENEIRA RUEFULLY CONCEDED INOPPORTUNENESS OF PROHIBITION AT PRESENT TIME, BUT INDICATED NECESSITY TO ISSUE REGULATION ASAP SO AS NOT TO GIVE APPEARANCE IT AIMED SPECIFICALLY AT PERUVIANS.

4. GOE INTENTION, HE CONTINUED, WAS NOT TO BAR LARGER BOATS COMPLETELY BUT TO CONTROL THEIR ACTIVITIES. BOATS IN "ASSOCIATION" WITH LOCAL INDUSTRY WOULD BE EXEMPT FROM PROHIBITION AND, INDEED, GOE WOULD WELCOME THEIR PRESENCE UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES WHEREBY THEY, IN ADDITION TO NORMAL FISHING ACTIVITIES, WOULD ACT AS "MOTHER SHIP/ FOR ELEMENTS OF LOCAL INSHORE FLEET. THEY WOULD DIRECT LOCALS TO FISH AND LEND THEM REEFER CAPACITY (WHICH SMALL LOCAL FISHERMEN ALMOST UNIFORMLY LACK), THUS EXTENDING THEIR POSSIBLE AT-SEA TIME AND "KEEPING THEM HAPPY". WHEN QUESTIONED, RIVADENEIRA SAID THAT BOATS UNDER CONTRACT TO ANY US PACKER ASSOCIATED WITH LOCAL INDUSTRY WOULD LIKEWISE BE CONSIDERED AS ASSOCIATED AND, HENCE, FREE FROM SIZE LIMITATION.

5. REGULATIONS IN QUESTION ARE NOT LIMITED TO PURSE SEINERS AND, ACCORDING TO RIVADENEIRA, HAVE SOMETHING INCLUDED TO MAKE ALMOST ALL FISHING NATIONS UNHAPPY. THERE WILL ALSO BE AN ABSOLUTE BAN ON LONG-LINING, WHICH WILL VIRTUALLY, IF NOT ABSOLUTELY, EXCLUDE THE
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JAPANESE FLEET. THE USE OF FOREIGN-FLAG FACTORY SHIPS WILL LIKEWISE BE EXCLUDED, THIS BEING AIMED SPECIFICALLY AT THE SOVIETS, WHO ARE FELT TO BE RUTHLESS OVER-EXPLOITERS. FINALLY, NO FOREIGN-FLAG BOTTOM TRAWLERS WILL BE PERMITTED, THIS BEING FELT TO BE PARTICULARLY DAMAGING TO LOCAL FISH STOCKS. RIVADENEIRA INDICATED THIS WAS AIMED AT THE POLES AND OTHER EE'S.

6. RIVADENEIRA'S PRESENTATION WAS SUBDUED AND STRAIGHT-FORWARD. HE REPEATEDLY STRESSED THAT MEASURES IN

QUESTION, WHICH HE EXPECTED TO BE PROMULGATED WITHIN TWO WEEKS, WERE NOT DISCRIMINATORY AND NOT AIMED AT US. CONSIDERING THE EXTENT TO WHICH THIRD-COUNTRY INTERESTS ARE AFFECTED, THIS IS CREDIBLE -- IN SPITE OF THE COME-ON TO US BOATS OFFERED THROUGH THE ASSOCIATION ROUTE.
BREWSTER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FISHING REGULATIONS, FISHING BOATS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974QUITO03022
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740110-1129
From: QUITO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740568/aaaaciun.tel
Line Count: 122
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: QUITO 2942 (NOTAL)
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GarlanWA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 SEP 2002 by WorrelSW>; APPROVED <04 FEB 2003 by GarlanWA>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOE FISHERIES REGULATIONS
TAGS: EFIS, EC, PE, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005